AMENDMENTS

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method of obtaining a ~~solution of calcium ions~~ calcium carbonate from ~~carbide lime,~~ lime containing insoluble impurities, said method comprising:

(i) treating the carbide lime with an aqueous solution of a polyhydroxy compound of the formula $HOCH_2(CHOH)_nCH_2OH$ in which n is 1 to 6; ~~and~~

(ii) ~~optionally~~ separating the insoluble impurities from the solution resulting from (i);

(iii) adding to the solution resulting from (ii) carbon dioxide until the pH of the solution is about 7 to induce precipitate a calcium carbonate; and

(iv) collecting the precipitated calcium carbonate.

17-18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is glycerol.

21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is sorbitol, mannitol, xylitol, threitol or erythritol.

22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein the polyhydroxy compound is sorbitol.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is employed as 10%-80% by weight solution in water.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the polyhydroxy compound is employed as a 10% to 60% by weight solution.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 20, wherein the glycerol is employed as a 60% to 80% by weight solution in water.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the amount of lime is such as to provide 3-12 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the aqueous solution of the polyhydroxy compound.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 16 effected at a temperature of 5°C-60°C.

28-30. (Canceled)

31. (New) A method of obtaining a calcium carbonate from carbide lime containing insoluble impurities, said method comprising:

(i) treating the carbide lime with an aqueous solution of a polyhydroxy compound of the formula $HOCH_2(CHOH)_nCH_2OH$ in which n is 1 to 6;

(ii) separating the insoluble impurities from the solution resulting from (i);

(iii) adding to the solution resulting from (ii) a precipitating agent to the solution resulting from ii to induce precipitate a calcium salt; and

(iv) collecting the precipitated calcium salt.